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UP FRONT
 Buckets, balls and a real live bunny were all a part of Motivational Magic at Elk Point Library.....Page 3

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 Due to the Heritage Day holiday weekend, please have all advertising in by 3 p.m. Wednesday. Thank you.

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Vicki Brooker photo

RED RIBBON DAY – A lengthy lineup took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially reopen Elk Point and District Airport following the installation of new LED lighting. Left to right are local electrician Jonny Nielsen, former town manager Myron Goyan, CNRL landman Kim Foisy, Town Coun. Terri Hampson, County of St. Paul Division 1 Coun. Darrell Younghans, Elk Point Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Geoff Hoyle, Elk Point and District Lions president Jason Boorse, MLA David Hanson, Division 2 Coun. Kevin Wirsta, Enbridge's Jay Brown, IISAL Engineering's Paul Ouwerkerk, Alberta Transportation's Dave Winch and Elk Point Mayor and Airport Commission chairman Lorne Young.

Grand opening for new, improved lighting at Elk Point and District Airport

VICKI BROOKER
 Staff Writer

"A project like this takes a lot of people to make it happen," Elk Point Mayor and Airport Commission chairman Lorne Young said as he welcomed stakeholders and visitors to the Grand Opening of the Elk Point and District Airport's upgraded facility, "and we feel their involvement should be honored."

He added that this was actually "a grand reopening" for the airport, which was originally opened on a cold and windy Sept. 18, 1985, and was being held in recognition of the most recent upgrades, a lengthy process which the airport commission found it "hard to decide if we can make it happen."

"Are we done? Never, but it's a huge improvement that can move us forward."

MLA David Hanson recalled that, "I've been hearing about this project since I was first elected, and Jonny (Nielsen) is still talking about getting bigger planes in here. We can't stop, we have to keep moving

forward to attract industry. There have been so many hits on the oil and gas industry, but this is a step in the right direction. I congratulate the Town of Elk Point on the completion of the project."

Alberta Transportation's Dave Winch was also happy to see the project completed, and said there were "hiccups to get it going." Once funding was approved under the Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program (SIP) airport component, "that pushed it forward and the minister approved it. I'm sure the airport will get lots of good traffic with the improvements."

Young noted that in addition to the SIP grant, funding "Needs to be driven locally, and we had two energy industry partners."

The first of these was Enbridge, represented at the opening by Jay Brown, who said he had worked in this area some years ago and continues to come out to visit. "Enbridge's Community and Business Engagement component looks forward to help increase the usability of the airport, and it looks great," Brown said.

Surface landman Kim Foisy spoke on behalf of

Canadian Natural Resources, and said CN "likes to be involved with projects with a lasting impact," such as an improved airport.

Two local service clubs also provided funding, one of them Elk Point and District Lions, whose president Jason Boorse told the group that Lions International has been helping communities for over 100 years, and that the local club will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. "We are here to serve and help improve our local community. There is not one infrastructure project we haven't been part of, as we definitely see the value for recreational, medical and commercial projects in the community. The Lions commend the commission for their hard work and encourage them to continue to help connect us to the world."

"I can basically repeat what Jason said, "Elk Point Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Geoff Hoyle added. "When Lorne brought this to our meeting, everyone was positive that we should contribute. It's a bet of a plus for us, and we're pretty proud of it. Thank you for all the work you have done."

(Continued on Page 2)

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Airport

(Continued from Front Page)

Both the county and town were instrumental in the project. Division 2 Coun. Kevin Wirsta brought greetings from the County of St. Paul and said the airport is “a big fundamental part of Elk Point as a gateway to northeast Alberta. This is a great start to what it can be, and as part of the Airport Commission, I feel it’s a wonderful thing we’ve done here.”

Town Coun. Terri Hampson spoke on behalf of Deputy Mayor Debra McQuinn, who was unable to attend the opening, and thanked all who were involved. “There so may layers of funding, and we are blessed and thankful for everyone who pulled together to get this done.”

Young introduced ISAL Engineering’s Paul Ouwerkerk, who “basically got the ball rolling” on the project. “He said there were things we had to fix, and helped draw up a plan that made sense.”

Ouwerkerk said the project has been a long one. “We started working on it three years ago.” Town of Elk Point CAO Ken Gwozdz and Alberta Transportation’s Dave Winch were instrumental in the process, he noted. “Ken persevered and kept pushing on.” The new lighting has “the latest LED technology, with low wattage and a 25-year life cycle. It’s low maintenance and energy efficient. I thank all of you for your support, and I’m very happy



LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE - ISAL’s Paul Ouwerkerk points out future possibilities to County of St. Paul Div. 1 Coun. Darrell Younghans.

with the outcome.”

The many partners in the project than unfurled a wide red ribbon and carried it up to the airport’s apron for the ribbon cutting ceremony, with MLA Hanson wielding the engraved scissors used in the 1985 ceremony by then Minister of Transportation Marvin Moore.

Then it was back to the hangar, where Elk Point Economic Development Committee chair Dwayne Vogel was busy barbecuing burgers for the crowd, who also had the opportunity to view a trio of plaques from the airport’s 1985 Grand Opening



AIRPORT HISTORY - Plaques from the 1985 airport opening were on display at the grand reopening.



GRAND OPENING GUEST SPEAKERS- left to right included Alberta Transportation’s Dave Winch, Jay Brown of Enbridge, Kim Foisy of CNRL and Paul Ouwerkerk of ISAL Engineering.



**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
INTERMUNICIPAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
BYLAW NO. 819/19**

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26 as amended, the Council of the Town of Elk Point proposes to adopt Bylaw No. 819/19 being the Intermunicipal Development Plan and repealing Bylaw No. 705/12 being the current Intermunicipal Development Plan for the Town of Elk Point.

A copy of the proposed Bylaw No. 819/19 may be reviewed and inspected by the public at the Town of Elk Point Office during the hours of 8.30 AM to 4.30 PM, Monday through Friday.

At 7:00 PM on August 12, 2019 the Council of the Town of Elk Point will cause a Public Hearing to be held in the Town Council Chambers at the Town of Elk Point Administration Office, at which time objections or comments regarding the proposed bylaw may be given and received.

Submission in writing can be emailed to town@elkpoint.ca or faxed to 780-724-2762. Thank you.

Ken Gwozdz, Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Elk Point
Box 448, Elk Point, Alberta T0A 1A0
Dated at Elk Point, AB
this 8th day of July, 2019

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780-645-5782

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**NOTICE
COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19**

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering Bylaw No. 2019 - 15 which is a Bylaw to establish an Intermunicipal Development Plan with the Town of St. Paul as it relates to all lands and development within the plan area in the County of St. Paul No. 19.

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering Bylaw No. 2019 - 16 which is a Bylaw to establish an Intermunicipal Development Plan with the Town of Elk Point as it relates to all lands and development within the plan area in the County of St. Paul No. 19.

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering Bylaw No. 2019 - 17 which is a Bylaw to establish an Intermunicipal Development Plan with the Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay as it relates to all lands and development within the plan area in the County of St. Paul No. 19.

A Public Hearing will be held for each bylaw on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can possibly be arranged, at the County Office in St. Paul.

Copies of the Bylaw may be inspected during normal office hours at the County Office and are available online at www.county.stpaul.ab.ca.

For further information, contact the County Office at 645-3301, ext 205.

Krystle Fedoretz, Director of Planning & Development
County of St. Paul No. 19
5015 - 49 Avenue, St. Paul, AB., T0A 3A4

Elk Point Library's Summer Readers motivated by magic

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Motivational magician Steve Harmer visited Elk Point Municipal Library on Wednesday evening as part of a 43-stop tour of libraries in the Northern Lights Library System. It was the third stop of the day for the former school principal, who earlier presented shows in Marwayne and Bonnyville.

Harmer's message, 'We Are Bucket Fillers,' was familiar to some of the youngsters in attendance, as he had made a similar presentation at Elk Point Elementary School two years ago. EPE student Lauryn Smith had interviewed Harmer for the school newsletter at that time, and after stacking his array of six numbered buckets and hoisted them aloft by balancing them on one finger, he called her up to assist with his first trick of the show. A red rope in a red bucket and a white rope in a white bucket magically switched places and eventually turned into red-and-white striped ropes in both before he presented his assistant with a 'magic wand,' usually known as a pencil, which he said, would "make things appear and disappear on paper."

"We are all born with an invisible bucket," Harmer said, "but to fill our own bucket, we have to fill someone else's," with kind words and kind deeds.

His next trick was to turn a red-and-white handkerchief into two, three, four, and eventually a long banner of handkerchiefs, and then to turn the pile into a live dove, "A symbol of peace."

"What is a bucket?" he asked. "It's a our personal gas tank. Its lid keeps our good feelings and thoughts in and bad feelings and thoughts out. A dipper is someone who steals our joy by dipping into our bucket."

Each bucket of the lineup had a word on its back, the first labeled "What," and his next trick involved three small buckets and not what, but water. He poured water from a larger bucket with a seemingly endless supply into the three, and told the youngsters, "Every time you fill someone else's bucket, your own fills up again." One of the small buckets was then balanced on a triangular frame hooked to a dog leash and swung in a circle, with not a drop escaping. That, he said, was science, rather than magic, with the whirling motion keeping the water in place.

With the bucket labeled 'Who', he asked, "Who needs their bucket filled? Everybody does. Who can learn to fill buckets? Everybody from age one to 101, it doesn't cost a cent and it doesn't take much time. Leah and Carson were called up from the audience to assist with the next trick, where the single happy-face ball in each of their buckets turned into a whole tray full of balls and with all those removed, they found there was still one huge ball in each as well. "Great things happen," he told them.

'How' was next in line. "How do we fill buckets? We use kind words, kind actions, we say thank you." He blew up a large heart-shaped balloon and put it in a lidded glass box, before telling his audience that an author asked children what they thought love is, and used their comments in a book. When the box was shaken, the single large heart suddenly burst and filled the box with many small, glittering hearts.

"Why do we fill buckets? Filling buckets encourages peace, love and joy, and makes people feel special," he told his next assistant, Keenan. "When we're sad or mad, we don't want to fill other people's buckets. Stop when you're angry, and take a deep breath."

"When should we fill buckets? All the time, every day forever, never quit."

The final bucket was labeled 'Where' and Harmer said, "Everywhere," as he invited Jemima up to assist him in filling a giant bucket with small items from a tote as he read a long list of happy words and phrases. When the bucket was filled, he reached in and, in lieu of the traditional magician's top hat, pulled out his dwarf Hotot rabbit, 'Stu', a snow white bunny with black-ringed eyes, who waved to the crowd and showed his exercise and dance moves... with a little help from Harmer.

Summer Reading Program coordinator Darby Swedgan led the round of applause for Harmer and his pets, adding thanks for the large crowd's very entertaining evening of Motivational Magic.



FROM BUCKETS TO BUNNY - Steve Harmer's Motivational Magic show was a delightful evening for all ages.



BALLS BY BUCKETFULS! Leah and Carson found their buckets filled with way more balls than they expected.

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EDITORIAL

Celebrating our heritage

The Collins English Dictionary defines 'heritage' as "all the qualities, traditions, or features of life (in a country) that have continued over many years and have been passed on from one generation to another."

So many cultures, so many traditions, so much to celebrate on one single weekend!

Edmonton has its Heritage Festival, celebrating that city's multicultural heritage, with foods and performances that showcase a number of its ethnic groups, but given its diversity, cannot begin to celebrate them all.

Back in the 1980s, Elk Point held at least one event of that type, with traditional foods, music, dances and costumes, but while it was moderately successful, it did not continue through the years, as many competing events and activities drew residents to rodeos, lakes and campgrounds for the long weekend.

For the past 20 years, the heritage of the region as a whole, rather than that of ethnic groups, has drawn massive crowds to Mallaig to take a look back at the way things were on the farms of the 1930s, a time when horsepower came on four legs, rather than four wheels, and when hard work and determination built the communities we enjoy living in today. That celebration fits the definition of 'heritage' to a T, and gives the younger generation a new appreciation of the lives of those who were part of our heritage.

RECREATION CORNER

Nothing wrong with a staycation

CRISTIN TCHIR
Recreation Coordinator

Can you believe we are halfway through summer? Well, not according to the calendar, but weather wise, we all know that August is typically disappointing, and July hasn't been good, remember how wet Canada Day was?

With the rain, came all the funny memes on Facebook, one with Kermit the Frog starring out the window with the saying "I'm glad it only rained twice this summer, once for 47 days and then again for 32" and of course Chris Farley, "For the love of God, quit raining!"

The rain hasn't put a damper on the Elk Point Hiking Club. Recreation committee Chairperson Sherry Oszust organized a hike this past Saturday at the Vermillion Provincial Park, it was about a 10 km loop. She said it was a nice hike and that it would be a great trail to bike and that she has plans to cross-country ski in the winter.

Recreation committee member Marguerite Friesen, who trailblazed the club, will be organizing the next hike. Stayed tuned to the Facebook page for updates and carpooling.

In the meantime, check out the Whitney Lake trails, they're great for biking too! Fort George and Buckingham House have trails as well, you can also take advantage of their summer programs, Archeology Mondays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. where you can dig in and learn about the history of Fort George, and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. you can learn Bushcraft skills, I think my boys would love this one.

There's lots to do in our own back yard, nothing wrong with a staycation!



WAY BACK WHEN...

Surface rights, rodeo grounds, Sox host provincial ball

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES IN THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 30 IN...

1984

Elk Point Surface Rights Association asked the Energy and Resources Conservation Board for a hearing into noise and air pollution which they feel could impact the quality of life in the Elk Point area, with EPSRA president Alban Bugej noting that while a recent ERCB hearing "served its purpose", his group is still unhappy with conditions in the oilfield south-east of Elk Point.

1989

Whitney Lake's new rodeo and fair grounds was christened in fine style with a great crowd on hand for the rodeo hosted by the Heinsburg 4-H Multi Club, where Jessie Swedgan and James Purdy won the Best Dressed Cowgirl and Cowboy honours and Jonathan Yake won the mutton busting trophy.

1994

Amoco Canada was considering amalgamating their two oil treatment plants into one operation, closing its plant along Sec. Hwy. 640 and directing all of its heavy crude oil production to the larger plant about two miles north, with a proposed loss of eight jobs.

1999

Tyler Loughran accepted his first provincial ball medal from Leo Cummings of Baseball Alberta after he served as bat boy for the gold medal-winning Acme Red Sox, when Elk Point Midget White Sox hosted the provincial tournament, its first ceremonial pitch thrown by Phil Sheplawy to Mayor Ed Buck.

2004

The Midget White Sox once again hosted the Midget 'A' Provincials, with Phil Sheplawy once

again making the ceremonial first pitch, and the Innisfail Indians defeating the Cold Lake Cardinals 8-5 in the gold medal game that wrapped up an exciting weekend of baseball action.

2009

This time, the Sox won Midget Provincial gold, after an all-win weekend at Rocky Mountain House, with a final win over Sherwood Park wrapping up a tournament where manager Doug Bassett said, "Our bats were unbelievable. The mojo was going and it was a great weekend."

2014

A history book spanning 100 years in Canada, and several decades prior to that time, was unveiled at a recent reunion of the descendants of Hjalmar and Karin Berg, who came to the Angle Lake area from Sweden in 1914. Fourteen cousins descended from the couple and their families gathered to celebrate their mutual roots.



FIRST PITCH - Former Elk Point Minor Ball president Laverne Wilson fires the ceremonial first pitch to Pee wee Sox catcher Kaiden "K-Rock" Evans-Anderson at the Pee wee AA Tier 4 Provincials tournament, where two days later, the Sox would snag Provincials silver medals, coming out of a three-way tie to take on the Whitecourt Rockies in the final.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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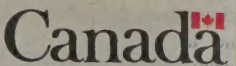
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Farms and businesses jump on board with Alberta Open Farm Days

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

The Lakeland area is jumping into to this year's Alberta Open Farm Days, with a list of 15 farms and restaurants taking part in the initiative in the area. That number is way up from just a few farms that participated last year.

Both the St. Paul and Lac La Biche Community Futures offices decided to get involved as regional hosts/coordinators this year, and the increase in interest in the initiative so far has been great, according to Penny Fox, general manager for Community Futures St. Paul-Smoky Lake Region.

The focus of Alberta Open Farm Days is to make the farm-food connection better known. The initiative is slated to take place on Aug. 17 and 18.

"People are curious about their food," says Fox. She adds that while many people in rural areas still have some sort of connection to agriculture, there is a growing number of people who don't.

"We're finding out that there's a much larger part of the population that don't have ties to agriculture anymore," says Fox. She adds that there is also a lot of marketing that takes place around food, such as products being dubbed hormone or antibiotic free, or free range.

While Alberta Open Farm Days allows for people to visit farms and businesses to learn about food first-hand, it also offers producers the chance to teach people and show them how animals and produce is handled and raised.



AGRICULTURE FROM THE GROUND UP - Janice Wirsta of K-Cow Ranch gave last year's Open Farm Days visitors a lesson on what cattle eat, where they live and how they are cared for throughout the year.

Fox says it's important for people to understand what they're eating, how it's being raised and grown, and how it's being processed, so we they make the choices that are right for them.

"This event sees farmers and ranchers invite their urban and rural neighbours to stop in for a visit to share stories, see demonstrations, and learn more about growing and producing the foods we eat. As well, some of Alberta's restaurants and breweries are joining in the fun," reads a media release from Community Futures St. Paul.

There are hosts from Smoky Lake, Lac La Biche, St. Paul and Bonnyville areas taking part in this year's event,

along with well over 100 other hosts across the province. Each will have their own tour, demonstrations and something special for people to taste. A complete list of hosts can be found at <https://albertafarmdays.ca> or the Alberta Open Farm Days Facebook page. There are maps available online so people can plan road trips around the hosts.

"There are various ways to enjoy the day - self driving where you pick and choose what/where you want to visit, or the St. Paul AG Society has coordinated a bus tour that will stop at eight stops and include lunch, supper and snacks from local businesses," reads the media release.

The bus tour will take place on Aug. 17, and plans to do a pick-up in Bonnyville before coming to St. Paul area in place, if there is interest. The cost to take part in the bus tour is \$42.95 a person, and that includes meals and snacks throughout the day. The cost of the bus itself is being covered by a grant accessed by the St. Paul AG Society.

Some of the local participants involved in this year's Alberta Open Farm Days include: Smoky Lake Farmers Market, Serben Farms, and Linda's Garden Market Ltd., all in the Smoky Lake area. In the St. Paul area hosts will include Al's Carrots, Majek Meats, Twisted Fork Restaurant, God's Prairie Simple Farm, K-Cow Ranch, Portage College, Lakeland Brewery, and People's Museum of St. Paul. In the Bonnyville area Rocky Meadows Orchard will take part.

Fox explains that Portage College was brought on board because of the food programs offered at the St. Paul campus, which is "an important asset for our region."

The Lac La Biche AG Society will also be hosting a showcase on the Sunday, featuring local producers from that area. The Multicultural Culinary Experience and Exhibit will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Agricom Complex. There are only 200 tickets available for the event.

Macor Farms and Christy Creek Honey Farm will also take part in Alberta Open Farm Days in the Lac La Biche area. *(Continued on Page 6)*

Increased bear sightings in County of St. Paul

MEREDITH KERR
Review Contributor

Reports of increased bear activity in the County of St. Paul this summer were confirmed by agricultural fieldman Keith Kornelsen.

"There's definitely been more bear sightings and reports of sightings. People seeing them in their yard for the first time. Someone was saying they had seen one with triplets, and when you see that sort of thing you know they (the bears) are doing well," said Kornelsen.

According to Kornelsen, none of the bears he's heard about at this point have been causing problems for property owners.

"If it's being aggressive or it's attracted to garbage or eating garbage in your area, you can call Fish and Wildlife," he said.

In an e-mail, Lisa Glover, a communications officer for Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, which includes Fish and Wildlife, said officers respond to reports of bear sightings when there is an imminent public safety risk "such as in an urban centre, school, playground... or when they have become food conditioned and habituated to unnatural food sources."

In rural areas like St. Paul, the first step "is to ensure that all unnatural food sources and attractants are managed and secured. In the majority of rural bear sightings, the bear will move on if it does not get any type of food reward," said Glover.

She said when a bear does receive that food reward, it becomes a heightened safety risk to the public because it has little fear of humans. When that happens, officers may have to explore other options like relocating the bear. Glover noted, relocating the bear is not a perfect solution.

"Bears that are severely food conditioned may return, or be attracted to another human populated area. This means that there are occasions where to ensure public safety officers may have to make the difficult choice to put a bear down," said Glover.

She also had a number of tips for making property less attractive to wandering bears, most of which revolve around reducing available food sources like ripe fruit from gardens and orchards, pet food, and bird feeders. Garbage should be stored in bear resistant and odour proof containers or buildings, and "smokehouses and animal carcasses, including bones, hides, and waste, should be stored in bear resistant buildings well

away from people."

If you're out hiking or travelling through bear country, carry bear spray and a noise maker and keep your eyes peeled for signs of bear activity including droppings, overturned rocks, scratched logs, and torn up ant hills. Make sure someone knows where you plan to be travelling and when you expect to return; avoid being out at dawn, dusk, or overnight; make lots of noise; and keep your dog on a leash and young children close to you.

According to Hayley Martin, a communications advisor for Alberta Environment and Parks, the prov-

ince does not have estimates for black bear populations in individual areas of the province.

"There are about 40,000 black bears province wide and approximately 10,000 black bears born each year in Alberta. St. Paul is a highly human populated community, which means that the black bear density in the area is low and mostly on the outskirts," said Martin.

Bear concerns can be reported to Fish and Wildlife in St. Paul at 780-645-6313, or to the Smoky Lake office at 780-656-3556. In the case of an emergency, bears can also be reported through the 24-hour Report a Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800.

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Sincerely Donna Fedorus



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NOTICE COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering **Bylaw No. 2019-18** which is a Bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw 2013-50. Bylaw 2019-18 will allow for the installation of on-site private sewage disposal on Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 1120579 instead of a holding tank. This parcel is 140.85 acres in size adjacent to Cardinal Lake.

A Public Hearing will be held on **Tuesday August 13, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as can possibly be arranged, at the County Office (5015-49th Ave) in St. Paul.

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering Bylaw No. 2019-19 which is a Bylaw to amend the Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 2013-51. **Bylaw 2019-19** will allow for the utilization of an access easement on Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 1120579 for legal and physical access. This parcel is 140.85 acres in size adjacent to Cardinal Lake.

A Public Hearing will be held on **Tuesday August 13, 2019, at 1:45 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as can possibly be arranged, at the County Office (5015-49th Ave) in St. Paul.

Copies of the Bylaws may be inspected during normal office hours at the County Office.

For further information, contact the County Office at 645-3301, ext 205.

Krystle Fedoretz, Planning & Development Officer
County of St. Paul No. 19
5015 - 49 Avenue, St. Paul, AB., T0A 3A4

Provincial syphilis outbreak declared

MEREDITH KERR
Review Contributor

Sexually transmitted infections are on the rise across the province, and according to a government report released earlier this month increased syphilis rates are especially concerning.

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health declared a province-wide syphilis outbreak at a press conference July 16.

"A total of 1,536 cases of infectious syphilis were reported in 2018. This is an almost tenfold increase from 2014. And it's getting worse. From 2017 to 2018 the number

of cases jumped 187 per cent, and we're expecting even higher numbers for 2019," said Hinshaw, noting the syphilis rate hasn't been this high since 1948.

When the data is broken down further, the syphilis numbers for the Alberta Health Services north zone, which includes St. Paul, are particularly troubling.

Open Farm Days

(Continued from Page 5)

Tickets for the St. Paul bus tour are available through St. Paul Community Futures, (780) 645-5782. For those not on the bus tour, tickets for a barbecue picnic supper at K-Cow Ranch are available by contacting (780) 614-5995.

Reservations at Twisted Fork for the "Alberta on a Plate" feature can be made by contacting (780) 614-3276.

Alberta Local Food Week occurs each year during the third week of August, which overlaps with Alberta Open Farm Days. The commitment to hold an annual Local Food Week was a key point in the Supporting Alberta's Local Food Sector Act that was passed on May 30, 2018.

Albertans are encouraged to attend Farmer's Markets, pick product at U-pick farms, and attend Alberta Open Farm Days.

According to the report, there were 208 infectious syphilis cases reported in 2018, a 324.5 per cent increase compared to 2017. Provincially, 60 per cent of the cases were diagnosed in men; 31 per cent were in men between 20 and 29 years of age.

"Infectious syphilis and STIs are a risk to anyone who is sexually active, particularly people who have new sex partners and who are not using protection," said Hinshaw. She encouraged anyone at risk for infection to get tested.

According to information on the AHS website, syphilis is detected through a blood test and treated with antibiotics.

Infectious syphilis is a STI that can cause sores or ulcers at the infection site and a rash on the hands, feet, or whole body, although many infected people do not immediately have symptoms.

"Syphilis is sometimes known as the great imitator because in any branch of medicine you can see someone with late stage syphilis, and they might present with an eye problem or it can affect their ability to think. It can cause dementia, heart problems. Untreated it can cause a great variety of problems," said Hinshaw. Other problems listed on the AHS website include paralysis, deafness, and blindness.

According to Hinshaw, there has also been a coinciding rise in rates of congenital syphilis, which happens when a baby is infected during the mother's pregnancy.

"This infection can cause deformed bones, jaundice, brain and nerve damage, meningitis, and other serious health problems in the child. While cases of congenital syphilis were rare before the outbreak, there have now been 22 cases in the last two years," said Hinshaw. According to the report, 13 of the cases were in the Edmonton region including one stillbirth and four cases were in the north zone.

Hinshaw urged all pregnant women to seek out early pre-natal care and get tested for syphilis.

"Congenital syphilis is a disabling and life threatening disease, but if diagnosed and treated early during

pregnancy both the mother and baby can have better health outcomes," said Hinshaw.

Other statistics

Statistics for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and HIV were also released as part of the report.

Provincially, there was a 4.8 per cent increase in the number of cases of chlamydia in 2018 as compared to 2017.

Nearly 60 per cent of those cases are in women, and 61 per cent of women with chlamydia are 15 to 24 years old. In the north zone, there was no change in the number of cases, although the demographics were similar.

Gonorrhoea saw a 5.3 per cent increase across the province compared to 2017. According to the report, 57 per cent of cases were in men, of which 42 per cent were men between the ages of 20 and 29. In the north zone, gonorrhoea is up 15.2 per cent, with similar case demographic percentages.

The one bright spot in the STI report is that HIV cases have decreased 13.2 per cent since 2017 provincially, and 17.2 per cent in the north zone.

"It is important to note that having any sexually transmitted infection such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea, or syphilis can increase the chances of HIV transmission, so all of these things are inter-linked," said Hinshaw.

Senior Medical Officer of Health for AHS Dr. Laura McDougall said one of the challenges with statistics is that "some of the numbers are driven by the volume of testing. So depending on how aggressively the effort is in finding some of the cases, it can at least in the short term explain some of the fluctuation, there's just no doubt at all that we are in an outbreak situation."

She urged everyone to take precautions for safer sex, especially through the use of condoms and other barrier methods for people outside of mutually monogamous sexual relationships. According to McDougall, sexually active people should be tested for STIs every three to six months even if they are not experiencing any symptoms.

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Something new, something old added to Mallaig's Haying in the 30s lineup

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Something old, but very new has been added this year to Mallaig's 20-year tradition of Haying in the 30s.

Two newly arrived buildings, one of them brought on site a few weeks ago, and one scheduled to be set in place only yesterday, are both mini museums in their own right. The first of the pair is actually a new building, built in an old style by Dwayne Bendfield and filled with antiques from his parents' farm in the St. Lina district, which was established in 1933. The second building is a log home from Fort Saskatchewan, built in 1892, and donated by the estate of the late Eugene Houle, who had converted it into a museum and filled it with antiques prior to his passing. Bendfeld, who owns a moving company, also donated the moving of both buildings. They will join buildings brought from across the region over the years, as well as some that have been constructed by volunteers.

The additions, as well as a new look to the Haying in the 30s entrance, join what has become a major tourist attraction over the two decades, and could rank among the busiest little towns in northeast Alberta each Heritage Day weekend, with visitors arriving as early as 3 p.m. on Thursday to park their motorhomes and trailers in the free camping space adjacent to the event, eager not to miss a moment of the two days jam-packed with activities.

Saturday starts off at 10 a.m. with opening ceremonies, followed by a parade at 10:30, while a page-long lineup of displays and demonstrations go from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A beef-on-a-bun supper starts at 6 p.m., followed by an auction and an old-time hoedown. Sunday begins with an interfaith worship service at 9 a.m. and a pancake breakfast from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., with displays open from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., when the event winds down for another year. A long lineup of top-notch entertainment is also on the schedule for both days.

Unlike most long weekend activities, this event will not cost you a dime for camping, entry fees or food, however, there are opportunities to purchase tickets on an array of donated items, with more donated items being sold in a live auction, and the organizers will gratefully accept donations large or small to the Haying in the 30s Cancer Support Society, which has been supporting local cancer victims throughout the length of the event. The event has many donors, with businesses purchasing 4-H steers to be donated toward the food served at the event, and donations of baking coming from across the area.

Back in 1999, the event's founder, the late Edgar Corbiere, had a vision of what it would like to showcase the old way of using horse drawn equipment to make hay, and borrowed a nearby hayfield for the purpose. His family had experienced dealing with cancer some years earlier, and he decided that this would not only be a fun event, it could also be a fundraiser for cancer victims undergoing treatment. That initial event raised \$3,500 and assisted 12 cancer victims. Two years later, with the event already growing, he was able to lease an 80-acre parcel from the County of St. Paul for as long as the event continues, at no cost.

A board of directors and registration as a society that could provide receipts for tax purposes were soon in place and the event has never stopped growing, with buildings, activities and events added every year, the



LOADED FOR TRANSPORT - A log home built in 1892 in the Fort Saskatchewan area was on its way to Mallaig earlier this week to become part of the display, and has been turned into a museum by the late Eugene Houle, whose estate donated the structure to Haying in the 30s.



ANOTHER MINI MUSEUM, this one built, filled with antiques from his family's St. Lina farm and brought to the site by Duane Bendfeld, was lowered into place a few weeks ago.

donations growing along with it. In 2017, that amount totaled \$262,000, and last year's donations, plus donations coming from service clubs and events held across the region, enabled the society to help 477 victims, according to Haying in the 30s president Martin Naundorf.

Throughout the two decades, one of the biggest donations of all has been the donation of time by the

many volunteers who keep the site in shape, help set up new displays and exhibits, and who work tirelessly throughout the August long weekend event to entertain, demonstrate vintage farming techniques, flip burgers and pancakes and take care of the thousands of visitors that flock through the gates.

Here's hoping that this year, your family will be among those visitors.



LAST YEAR'S DISPLAYS included Albert Boratynec's water well (left), the Ockerman house from Ferguson Flats (above) and Morris Irvine's wheelwright demonstration (right)

